

FACT SHEET:

Bush Education Budget Breaks Promise to Parents and Children

Even as middle-class Americans are struggling to achieve financial security, the Bush budget ignores the very real challenges they are facing. It fails to create jobs, and instead creates record deficits. It shortchanges education, health care, veterans' benefits, and small business. Instead of helping working families, it provides additional tax breaks for those who need them least, and provides billions of dollars in new giveaways to HMOs and other wealthy corporate interests.

Shortchanges education reform efforts by \$9.4 billion. While President Bush is highlighting the additional \$1 billion he invested education in his 2005 budget, he still provides \$9.4 billion less for education than was promised in the No Child Left Behind Act – meaning that 2.4 million children will not get the help with reading and math they were promised under Title I.

Shortchanges after-school programs by \$1 billion. President Bush provides \$1 billion less for afterschool programs than was promised in the No Child Left Behind Act – meaning that 1.3 million children will be left without a safe place to play and learn after school.

Shortchanges special education for 6.9 million children. The Bush budget provides \$2.5 billion less than promised for special education in No Child Left Behind, providing local school systems with less than half of the funding they are owed by the federal government.

Shortchanges training for 56,000 teachers. The Bush budget provides only \$2.9 billion for teacher quality programs, which is \$234 million less than authorized in the No Child Left Behind Act. This means that 56,000 teachers will not get the extra training they need to help our children succeed.

Reduces Federal investment in education by \$1.4 billion. President Bush also eliminates dozens of key programs, including dropout prevention, family literacy, and comprehensive school reform, reducing the Federal investment in education by \$1.4 billion.

Jeopardizes aid to children of military families. The Bush budget freezes Impact Aid funding, jeopardizing programs and services for children of military families.

Freezes funding for Pell Grants and cuts \$100 million from Perkins Loans. The Bush budget freezes the maximum Pell Grants at \$4,050, and cuts funding for Perkins Loans by \$100 million. It also freezes or eliminates funding for campus-based student aid programs, resulting in the loss of grants, work-study, and loans to about 78,000 students. This year, tuition at state universities increased nationwide by as much as 40 percent in some states.

Cuts \$316 million from vocational education and community colleges. The Bush budget cuts \$316 million – a 25 percent reduction – from vocational education. This new round of cuts is in addition to more than \$1.5 billion in proposed cuts to job training and vocational education programs since he took office.

Guts Head Start. The President's budget turns Head Start into a block grant program that eliminates comprehensive educational, health, and nutrition services that children in this program currently receive. In addition, the program receives a funding increase of less than 3 percent, even though Head Start currently only serves 60 percent of eligible preschoolers.

